BISS Biodiversity Information Science and Standards

Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e25969
doi: 10.3897/biss.2.25969

OPEN ACCESS

Conference Abstract

State of Digitisation and Gap Analysis Surveys

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Received: 18 Apr 2018 | Published: 21 May 2018

Citation: Phillips S, Haston E, Green L, Weech M, Cubey R, King S, Drinkwater R (2018) State of Digitisation and Gap Analysis Surveys. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e25969.
https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.2.25969

Abstract

Recent developments in digitisation technologies and equipment have enabled advances in the rate of natural history specimen digitisation. However Europe's Natural History Collection Institutions are home to over one billion specimens and currently only a small fraction of these have been digitally catalogued with fewer imaged. It is clear that institutions still face huge challenges when digitising the vast number of specimens in their collections.

I will present the results of two surveys that aimed to discover the main successes and challenges facing institutions in their digitisation programmes. The first survey was undertaken in 2014 within the SYNTHESYS 3 project and gathered information from project partners on their current digitisation facilities, equipment and workflows providing some key recommendations based on these findings. The second survey was completed more recently in 2017, through the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) Digitisation Working Group. This survey aimed to discover the successful protocols and implementation of digitisation, and to identify the shortfalls in resources and protocols. Results from both surveys will be fed into the future programme of the CETAF Digitisation Working Group as well as forthcoming and proposed EU projects, including Innovation and Consolidation for large-scale Digitisation of natural heritage (ICEDIG).

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